

CLAIMS

1. A system for detecting a failure of a driver of a moving motor vehicle to move a steering wheel in a normal manner, the system comprising:
 - a graduated optic tape mounted on a hub of a steering wheel with an adjacent optical sensor reading the optic tape, the optical sensor mounted on a steering wheel column;
 - the optical sensor electrically connected to a first and second timer, a means for alerting the driver, a DC power supply and a brake light switch; and
 - the optical sensor sending a signal to the means for alerting the driver if the steering wheel does not move for a prescribed period of seconds while the motor vehicle is moving.
2. The system for detecting failure of a driver of a moving motor vehicle to move a steering wheel in a normal manner according to claim 1 wherein the first timer is manually adjustable by a controller to output a signal when the optical sensor does not sense movement of the steering wheel for a period to five to ten seconds.
3. The system for detecting a failure of a driver of a moving motor vehicle to move a steering wheel in a normal manner according to claim 1 wherein the second timer provides a minimum electrical output to an alarm device of one second regardless of the output duration of the first timer.

4. The system for detecting a failure of a driver of a moving motor vehicle to move a steering wheel in a normal manner according to claim 1 wherein the means for alerting the driver is a vibrator in a vehicle seat underneath the driver.

5. The system for detecting a failure of a driver of a moving motor vehicle to move a steering wheel in a normal manner according to claim 1 wherein the first timer is reset by an electrical pulse emanating from a band-pass filter when the wheel turns.

6. The system for detecting a failure of a driver of a moving motor vehicle to move a steering wheel in a normal manner according to claim 1 wherein the means for alerting the driver is a buzzer.

7. An after market system for alerting a driver of a moving vehicle when a steering wheel operated by the driver fails to move for a prescribed period of time, the system comprising:

a graduated optically readable tape mounted on a movable component of the steering wheel;

an optical sensor mounted adjacent the optically readable tape and positioned to read the optically readable tape;

the optical sensor sending an electrical signal to a first and second timer;

the system sending an electrical signal to a means for alerting the driver if the steering wheel does not move for the prescribed period of time;

the first timer connected electrically to a controller for inputting a signal for a prescribed period of time; and

the second timer sending an electrical signal to the means for alerting the driver, provided a brake light switch connected to the system is not closed.

8. The system according to claim 7 wherein an emission from the optical sensor is modulated by an oscillator at a frequency between 5KH_z and 10KH_z .

9. The system according to claim 7 wherein a band-pass filter in the system passes only the modulated frequency from the oscillator to the first timer.

10. The system according to claim 7 wherein the prescribed period of time inputted into the first timer is five to ten seconds.

11. The system according to claim 7 wherein the means for alerting the driver is a buzzer mounted inside the vehicle.

12. The system according to claim 7 wherein the means for alerting the driver is a vibrator mounted in a seat under the driver.

13. The system according to claim 7 wherein the electrical signal is in a D.C. circuit.

14. The system according to claim 9 wherein the first timer is reset by an electrical pulse emanating from the band-pass filter when the steering wheel moves.